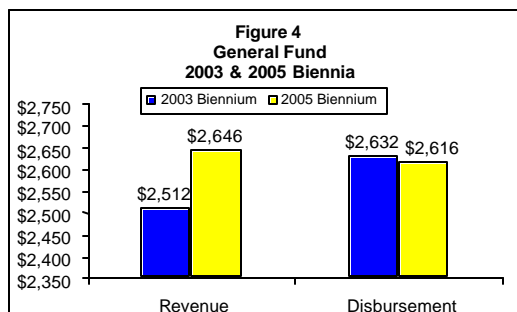


## 2005 Biennium

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As shown in Figure 4, total revenues to the general fund account for the 2005 biennium are estimated to be over \$2.6 billion, an increase of \$134 million, or 5.3 percent from the 2003 biennium. Disbursements are estimated to be more than \$2.6 billion, a decrease of \$16 million, or -0.6 percent from the 2003 biennium.



It should be noted that beginning in the 2003 biennium, total revenues and disbursements increase substantially. This change is primarily due to the passage of HB 124 during the 57<sup>th</sup> legislative session, which included significant revenue and disbursements related to local government funding in the general fund account.

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## "Fiscal Pocket Guide" Publications Available as of November 2002

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Bed Tax  
Basic State Finances  
Fiscal Training Opportunities  
General Fund  
Higher Education Funding  
K-12 Education Funding  
Medicaid  
Montana's Budgeting Process  
Montana Highway Funding  
Pertinent State Statistics  
Resource Indemnity Trust  
TANF  
Tobacco Settlement Funds

## Publications Under Development

Coal Tax Trust  
Local Government Funding

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### LFD Mission Statement

We are committed to enhancing the legislative process through understandable and objective fiscal policy analysis and information.

## Fiscal Pocket Guide



## FOCUS ON... GENERAL FUND FISCAL 2003

## LEGISLATIVE FISCAL DIVISION

October 2003



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## Fiscal 2003

The state general fund is the primary account that funds a significant portion of the general operations of state government and is often referred to as the state's checking account. Expenditures from the account have grown from slightly less than \$700 million in fiscal 1990 to nearly \$1.3 billion in fiscal 2003, or approximately 5.0 percent annually.<sup>1</sup>

Figure 1 shows the sources of money for the general fund by major revenue category.

In fiscal 2003, over 60 percent of total general fund revenues came from income and property taxes.

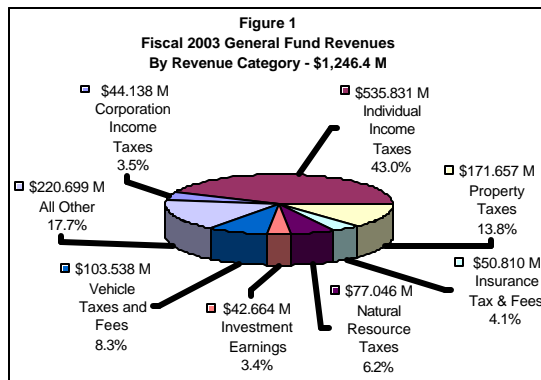
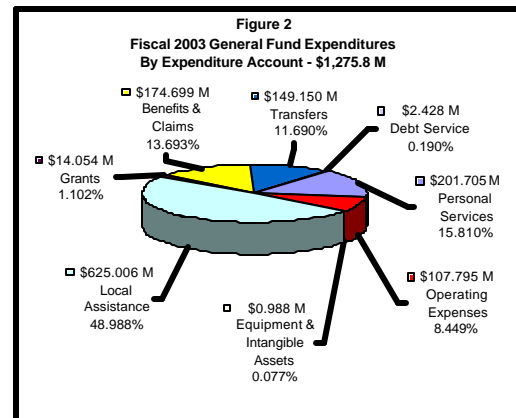
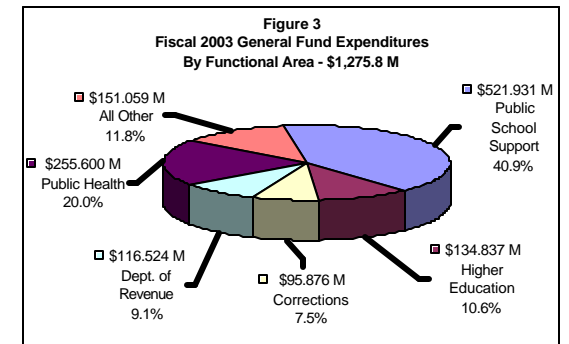


Figure 2 shows how the money was expended by major expenditure account, and Figure 3 shows how the money was expended by functional area.

About 24 percent of the general fund revenue was expended for personal services and operating costs, with most of the remainder disbursed for local assistance (including education), human service benefits, and transfers. This indicates that the cost of government is weighted heavily towards local assistance (local government entities) and direct human service benefits.



Transfers are the movement of general fund money to another fund. Most of the transfers are to the current unrestricted fund (\$119 million), debt service funds (\$19 million), and state special revenue funds (\$10 million).



Total general fund disbursements represent approximately 37 percent of all state disbursements in the general, state special, federal special, and selected proprietary and other fund types.

<sup>1</sup> This growth rate includes, in addition to program and spending growth, increases in the fund due to fund switches (from de-emarking and other transfers) that do not reflect a growth in total state spending. For example, HB 124 in the 2001 session included a pass-through of significant new revenue/disbursements through the general fund to local and state governments that doesn't represent an increase in total state spending.